

NEW YORK'S CREDIT UNIONS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about credit unions. Representatives of New York City credit unions and the New York State Credit Union League visited my Washington office to explain the response of the credit union community in the wake of September 11th. The trip had been planned for quite some time and they thought about canceling their visit out of respect for the larger issues before Congress. Instead, they came with a message that has defined credit unions since their inception—one of cooperation and a “people-helping-people” service to their membership.

Branches of three credit unions, Excel Federal Credit Union, US Alliance Federal Credit Union and FAA Regional Federal Credit Union, were lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. Municipal Credit Union—which serves predominantly emergency service personnel and city employees—had its main office and a branch office severely damaged. All employees were fortunate to escape, but hundreds of members undoubtedly perished. The New York State Credit Union League opened a “command center” to channel information to distressed credit unions and assist in their recovery. The New York State Credit Union Foundation created a disaster relief fund that has raised nearly \$500,000 from credit unions throughout the country and the world to assist families and help rebuild community programs in Manhattan. Fire and police credit unions in Syracuse, NY raised \$150,000 in a single weekend. Empire Corporate FCU, located in Albany, NY has created a \$2 million “interest free” loan fund for credit unions in Manhattan to assist their members or help rebuild their infrastructure. The National Credit Union Foundation, operated by the Credit Union National Association on behalf of 80 million credit union members, has raised \$250,000 through its Credit Unions Rebuild America. In addition to providing operational and financial assistance, credit unions are extending special services to surviving members in the form of lower loan rates, deferred payments on credit, longer grace periods and fee waivers.

As owners of their cooperative financial institution, credit union members feel a sense of community, which is especially apparent during periods of financial hardship. I urge my colleagues to speak with the credit unions in their districts and to encourage their constituents to turn to credit unions for help. The New York credit unions have demonstrated to me their willingness to reach out during this time of extraordinary need to help our communities. Their cooperative spirit will not only see their members through these trying times, but will make us stronger as a Nation in the end.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LATSON ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Latson Road Elementary School from Howell, Michigan, in receiving a Blue Ribbon Award. Recipients of the Blue Ribbon Award must meet rigorous standards and criteria including: attention to student support, fostering student culture, building community partnerships, meeting challenging standards, and ensuring the quality of their teachers. Furthermore, the process to be recognized at the national level is long and arduous with first being selected by the state department of education to a site visit by a national panel of reviewers to being nominated by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The final step includes the presentation of the awards given tonight at a prestigious banquet in honor of Michigan's top schools.

The Blue Ribbon Award is the hallmark in achieving academic excellence for a school. But a school is a great deal more than a building with chalkboards. A successful school is only as good as the people behind it. Therefore, I wish to wholeheartedly commend the principal, teachers, parents and students that dedicated their time and efforts into making this award possible. I am proud to represent Latson Road Elementary School, a shining example of excellence in education.

ENDORSE THE MITCHELL COMMITTEE REPORT RESOLUTION:
SUPPORT AMERICAN INTERESTS
BY WORKING TOWARD A JUST,
LASTING PEACE BETWEEN
ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the 29 colleagues who have joined me as original cosponsors, I rise today to announce the introduction of an important concurrent resolution pertaining to the ongoing violence in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. As we all know, this violence not only endangers Israelis, Palestinians, and their neighbors, but it threatens the interests of the United States at this most critical time.

In introducing this resolution—which is strongly supported by the Administration—my colleagues and I are sending a clear message that violence in this troubled region is unacceptable and serves no one's long-term interests. It stresses that the Mitchell Committee Report offers the best road map toward ending the current cycle of violence and restarting the peace process in the Middle East. It notes that U.S. leadership is vital to creating and implementing a just and lasting peace. Finally, it highlights the fact that peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is America's best interest now and in the future.

In the past week we have seen violence beget violence. Assassinations do not serve the interests of the Palestinians. Unjust, aggressive acts do not serve the interests of Israel. Most importantly these acts do not serve American interests, particularly at a time when we are engaged in war and the delicate diplomacy of coalition building. These acts harm our ability to effectively meet and beat the forces of evil that we are fighting in Afghanistan.

I would note that while neither party is beyond reproach, I am troubled by what is taking place in Bethlehem, Beit Rima, and elsewhere. I am deeply troubled that when we shared our concerns with the Government of Israel and asked that they refrain from escalating violence by occupying additional Palestinian lands, they refused.

Mr. Speaker, as we wage war on terrorism, we must be careful to remember that while we have many allies, we must not allow any single country to use this conflict to justify any and all actions they take in their national interest. American interests overlap with the interests of other countries on many points, but they are not identical. American interests must be our priority and must prevail.

The Israel-Palestinian conflict has left thousands dead since 1948, and hundreds dead in the last year. This conflict must be resolved. Both sides have suffered, are suffering, and will continue to suffer if nothing is done. It is in the interest of our nation to encourage these parties to halt the violence and make peace.

The Mitchell Committee was created by the mutual agreement of the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, the United Nations, and the European Union at the conclusion of the Sharm el-Sheik Middle East Peace Summit on October 17, 2000. The Mitchell Committee studied the ongoing violence over a period of months, and the report they submitted included objective findings and constructive recommendations as to how to end the violence and rebuild confidence that will enable the parties to return to the negotiating table.

The United States, the UN, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority endorsed the Mitchell Committee Report because it is the best blueprint as to how to get the peace process back on track. It was accepted because it is a fair and balanced report that highlights the fact that both parties are responsible for the starting and perpetuating violence, and both parties are responsible for stopping it.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I have introduced is balanced and fair, and merely expresses this body's support for the Mitchell Committee Report. Passing this resolution will send a message to both Israelis and Palestinians that the United States is a true partner for peace, and will work toward creating a just, lasting peace that will protect the interests of all parties.

This resolution enjoys the strong support of the Bush Administration, and I submit a copy of an October 5, 2001, letter of support from the State Department. This letter notes the following:

Passage of this resolution, without amendment, would make a positive and welcome contribution to the Administration's work

with the parties to end the violence, implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations, and return to substantive negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, violence between the Israelis and Palestinians only begets more violence. This needless bloodshed runs counter to the interests of all parties, including the United States. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and demonstrate their support for peace and the Administration's efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinians conflict in a just, balanced manner.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2001.

DEAR MR. DINGELL: Thank you very much for your letter to Secretary Powell and for sharing with us the text of your Concurrent Resolution. Passage of this resolution, without amendment, would make a positive and welcome contribution to the Administration's work with the parties to end the violence, implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations, and return to substantive negotiations. We appreciate very much your support.

As you point out, the Mitchell Committee recommendations represent a practical path back to productive negotiations between the parties. Before negotiations can begin, however, it is essential that the violence end and that both sides do everything possible to restore an atmosphere of calm. The meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat and the renewed security coordination which followed that meeting are important steps in this direction.

It is important that both Palestinians and Israelis avoid actions that jeopardize this renewed dialogue. Both sides must engage in the fullest possible coordination on security issues to help ensure a lasting halt to violence and terror. The Israelis should refrain from provocative acts that can only escalate tensions and undermine efforts to bring about a lasting halt to violence. For their part, the Palestinian authority must take sustained and effective steps to preempt violence and arrest those responsible for planning and conducting acts of violence and terror.

Further progress will not be possible without a significant reduction in the level of violence.

Both sides now have an important opportunity to break from the events of the past year to begin to build a new relationship. Both sides must follow through on their commitments to fully implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations.

The President and the Secretary have been deeply engaged and will continue to do everything possible to help the two sides end the violence and encourage the resumption of a meaningful political dialogue. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

PAUL V. KELLY,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Legislative Affairs.

UNITING AND STRENGTHENING AMERICA BY PROVIDING APPROPRIATE TOOLS REQUIRED TO INTERCEPT AND OBSTRUCT TERRORISM (USA PATRIOT) ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, recently the House considered its version of the Counter Terrorism bill H.R. 2975. I voted against that measure. I voted against that bill for many of the very same provisions in H.R. 3162, the anti-terrorism measure before us today. As such, I must also vote against H.R. 3162. I would, first, like to commend the work of Mr. Conyers. He has stood steadfast and vigilant in attempt to protect the civil liberties of our nation's citizens. I, like many in this body, fear that our nation's tradition of civil liberties will be sacrificed at the alter of our war on terrorism. Do not be mistaken, for I realize that terrorism is a clear and present evil that our country faces—worthy of vigorous combat to defeat it. However, if, in our effort to stamp out terrorism, we stamp out the very freedoms that make us Americans, we will have made a grave mistake.

I will vote against this bill and express my opinion that vigilance must abide to ensure that our nation does not succumb to terrorism from beyond, but also to ensure that we do not succumb to tyranny from within as well. I raise my voice to state forthrightly that I will be vigilante of all of those who seek to take advantage of the predicament that our new war on terrorism presents. This measure grants our nation's legal apparatus new and unprecedented powers. Power that, if unchecked, could easily be used to trample over our hard won liberties.

It is true that many objectionable measures have been eliminated from the bill. No longer does the bill allow the indefinite detention of aliens prior to trial. I am particularly pleased that the measure provides for a new Inspector General in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to ensure that these laws are not used to trample our freedoms. It is also good to know that a person cannot be convicted of evidence from a foreign country that would not be admissible in U.S. courts.

Although these important changes have been made, the measure still raises significant concerns. The bill contains language sunseting its provisions in a 4-year period. While this is better than nothing I have no doubt that we should revisit these laws in two years time to assess the government's administration of them. This bill allows the use of roving wiretaps. This means one judge can issue an order that allows the authorities to listen to any phone that a suspect may potentially use. Here, I fear any shaky justification given by authorities can be used to order wiretaps on a broad and sweeping level, possibly leading to tapping the lines of many who are not at all related to the neither a terrorist, nor criminal plot.

The bill also expands the authority of the government to conduct so-called sneak and

peak searches. Imagine your house was wiretapped based inadequate suspicion giving rise to the authorization of a roving wiretap of a third-party suspected terrorist. Imagine further that based on evidence from this roving wiretap, the police are authorized to come in and search your home and personal belongings without notifying you. Surely these powers should be reviewed at least within a two-year period.

These scenarios could play out in infinite ways. There are unforeseen variables that we just cannot quantify that may allow authorities to abuse the rights of our citizens. If we had truly been given the opportunity to debate these issues in their entirety on the floor of the House, we probably could have resolved them in a way that sufficiently balanced our security needs against our civil rights. After all, following vigorous debate, the measure presented by the House Committee on the Judiciary passed with unanimous support. It was my desire to see vigorous debate on the floor of the House so that at Conference a measure could be crafted that would have received the unanimous vote of both the House and Senate and the support of the White House. Unfortunately, the Republican Majority and the White House had alternative plans.

It is unfortunate that my only hope is that the new Inspector General will be vigorous in its assessment of the government's activity. The Inspector General will need to act decisively and with authority given the unprecedented authority we bestow on the government today.

In light of this, I urge my colleagues to vote against this measure.

TRIBUTE TO ALLENE MITCHELL PENROD

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, Allene Mitchell Penrod was born September 3, 1911, weighing in at a mere two pounds, and as she celebrates her 90th year, continues to be active both mentally and physically. She has been a wife, is a mother, a career woman, and since 1985, a breast cancer survivor.

Allene is a very talented seamstress who discovered her talent for sewing skills at an early age, making rag dolls, doll clothes, and toys with which to play. Later, she honed her skills by taking sewing classes in school. From that time on, she made her own clothes, clothes for her children, and even made her first bra at age 20. Perhaps her abilities can best be described by the following article that was published in The Daily Oklahoman, This article appeared in the Women's Section on July 15, 1984, when Allene was awarded the "Oklahoma Golden Thimble Award", an honor bestowed on expert seamstresses in the state.

GRANDMA TEACHES KIN TO LOVE STITCH PROJECTS

"Love what you are doing," is the advice Allene Penrod of Roosevelt gives beginning seamstresses. But this advice is not always necessary. Granddaughter Krystal Mahoney sews and learns from her. Allene see that